THE ONE-MAN JLA! PART THREE OF FOUR
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I SEEM TO HAVE LOST HIM...
...LOST SUPERMAN! I THINK... I THINK HIS BRAIN DIED!
SECRET ORIGINS PART 3:
"EYES OF THE HAWK"
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DON'T SAY THAT, J'ONN! WE'VE TRAVELED LIGHT-YEARS TO FIND HIM, AND YOUR TELEPATHIC BEACON IS THE ONLY LEAD WE--
WHOAAA! WHERE'D THIS COME FROM?
LANTERN, IF YOU'D FOCUS ON PILOTING THIS ENERGY-SHIP YOU MADE--
--INSTEAD OF ADDING ALL THESE PIRATE DETAILS--
YOU DIDN'T SEE IT EITHER! C'MON, LET'S CREAM THIS THING BEFORE IT CREAMS US!
FLASH! GREEN LANTERN...WHERE IS STEEL? I THOUGHT HE WAS WITH US!
J'ONN, WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOU--- WHUFF!
THIS...THIS HAPPENED BEFORE. WE ALREADY TAMED THIS CREATURE... BUT STEEL WAS HERE.*
J'ONN, I THINK YOUR BRAINS THE ONE IN TROUBLE...
*IN ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #570.

"...NOT SUPERMAN'S!"
NOT MUCH TIME UNTIL THE OTHERWORLD SIMULATIONS EXTINGUISH HIS LAST BRAIN CELLS. PERHAPS ONLY MINUTES.
HE HAS ALREADY EXPERIENCED THE LIVES HE'D HAVE LED HAD HIS ESCAPE FROM KRYPTON'S DESTRUCTION TAKEN HIM TO RANN AND QA INSTEAD OF EARTH... *
...BUT MY PLAN REQUIRES AS MUCH RESEARCH AS POSSIBLE, ROBOT. SEE THAT OUR OTHER SUBJECTS REMAIN MENTALLY ACTIVE...
...WHILE I MAKE DO WITH WHAT LITTLE SUPERMAN HAS LEFT.
ROCKETED AS A CHILD FROM THE EXPLODED PLANET KRYPTON...
...THE INFANT KAL-EL GREW TO MANHOOD ON THE PLANET THANAGAR...
YES, MASTER COGITO.
* SUPERMAN #147 AND ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #570.

...A WORLD THAT EMBRACED HIM, NURTURED HIM, AND DISPLAYED ITS EVERY SECRET TO HIM...
...EXCEPT ONE.
PUT DOWN YOUR WEAPONS!
YOU'RE UNDER ARREST FOR VIOLATING EDICT 23, SUBSECTION 4.2464!
POSSESSION OF LEAD, RIGHT? SUCH EXTREME FORCE TO STOP A VICTIMLESS CRIME... HAVE YOU WINGMEN NO SHAME?
LET'S DEBATE THE ISSUES LATER, IDIOT...
...AND CONCENTRATE ON GETTING OUT OF HERE ALIVE!
KATAR!
AARRHH!

KATAR! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT...?
BEHIND... YOU...
WHAT?!
NEVER UNNNHH
...MIND!
KATAR, YOU SAVED MY LIFE, AND AFTER BEING SHOT YOURSELF. I--I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY.
NOTHING. YOU'D HAVE DONE... THE SAME FOR ARRRHHHE ME.
VERY TOUCHING. NOW IF YOU'RE BOTH THROUGH--
RIGHT. WE NEED TO PUT SOME DISTANCE BETWEEN US AND THIS LEAD-HOUSE BEFORE--

IT MAKES NO SENSE, CHIEF PUL. WE KILLED EIGHT MEN, AND FOR WHAT? AREN'T WE ENTITLED TO KNOW WHY LEAD HAS BEEN CRIMINALIZED?
YOU'RE NOT ENTITLED TO ANYTHING, KATAR HOL! NOT ANYMORE!
YOU QUIT THE ARISTOCRACY WHEN YOU JOINED THE FORCE, SO DON'T MARCH IN HERE AND MAKE DEMANDS!
WHY DON'T YOU GO BACK HOME AND BOSS AROUND YOUR FATHER'S SERVANTS? LET REAL COPS HANDLE THE DIRTY WORK!
KA-BOOM
I'M TELLING YOU, PARAN, NO MORE EDUCATED COPS! YOUR SON IS ASKING QUESTIONS... AND ALL THE ANSWERS POINT TO SEER, AND WHAT YOU DID TO--
BE QUIET, PUL--
--OR ME MIGHT HEAR YOU!

SO, OFFICIALLY THEY TRANSFERRED ME TO THE CASE BECAUSE I WAS SHOT...
...BUT I KNOW IT'S BECAUSE I SPOKE UP TO PUL ON THE LEAD ISSUE...
SHUSH, KATAR! WALLS HAVE EARS, Y'KNOW.
YOU'RE RIGHT, BOY!
IGNORE BYTH. HE'S A SCREW-UP.
POLICE OFFICIAL THOUGHT HE'D RUN GUNS. CAUGHT HIM BEFORE HE MADE HIS FIRST SALE.
YOU GOT TOO CLOSE TO THE TRUTH AND THEY PUT YOU AWAY, JUST LIKE ME!
KNOW WHY THE STATE FEARS LEAD? BECAUSE SEER CAN'T SEE THROUGH IT!
HE'S WATCHING US... WATCHING EVERYONE! PRIVACY'S A MYTH ON THANAGAR! HOW ELSE DO YOU THINK THEY CAUGHT ME BEFORE I DID ANYTHING?
WATCH YOUR BACK, BOY!
SEER SEES EVERYTHING!
MANIAC.

SEER SEES EVERYTHING!
WATCHFUL AS A SOARING HAWK.
MORE ALERT THAN AN ELECTRONIC SENSOR.
ABLE TO PROCESS VAST INPUTS IN A SINGLE MILLISECOND.
DON'T LOOK IN THE SKY. IT'S A GHOST. IT'S AN ANGEL.
IT'S SEER.
...STRANGE VISITOR FROM ANOTHER PLANET WHO CAME TO THANAGAR WITH SIGHT AND HEARING FAR BEYOND THOSE OF MORTAL MEN.
SEER...WHO CAN PEER INSIDE THE DEEPEST VAULT... HEAR A FEATHER FALL FROM A DISTANT NEST...
...AND WHO, HIDDEN AWAY IN HIS SKYBORNE AERIE, FROM WHICH HE REPORTS TO THE GREAT PLANETARY POLICE FORCE...
...FIGHTS A NEVER-ENDING BATTLE FOR CAREER, SECURITY...
...AND SECRECY.
HE'S EVERYWHERE! HE'S WATCHING!

SEER TO CENTRAL JUSTICE PROCESSOR... EDICT &3 VIOLATION IN PROGRESS AT COORDINATES I'M TRANSMITTING...
"...ACTIVATE PUNISHMENT SIGNAL."
WHEETWHEETWHEET
WHAT'S THAT?
UH-OH. I TOLD YOU THE WALLS HAVE EARS. JUST STAY OUT OF THE WAY, KATAR...
...I'LL HANDLE THIS!
YOU'RE GOING TO BEAT ME AGAIN, ARENT YOU? FOR TALKING TOO MUCH?
THAT PROVES I'M TELLING THE TRUTH!
SHUT UP, YOU--
HEYYY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING? STOP THAT--
HUNNWH
BOK!
WHAT DID I TELL YOU, KATAR??
KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT AND STAY OUT OF THE WAY!

FATHER...YOU NEVER TOLD ME... DID YOUR STANDING IN THE SCIENCE ASSOCIATION GET ME THIS JOB? DID YOU HAVE TO PULL A LOT OF STRINGS?
WELL... A FEW.
THAT'S BECAUSE THEY WANT STUPID CORS... TRAINED BIRDS WHO DO WHAT THEY'RE TOLD. SOMEONE WITH A BRAIN MIGHT ASK THE WRONG QUESTIONS.
THAT'S WHY THEY FIRED ME. PUL GAVE ME SOME VAGUE ROUTINE, SAID I JUST WASN'T CUT OUT FOR THE FORCE. THE TRUTH IS, I KNEW TOO MUCH ABOUT THIS SEER.
UNLESS...
UNLESS I'M LOSING MY MIND. UNLESS I'M PARANOID.
UNLESS EVERYONE ELSE IS RIGHT AND THE REAL WORLD IS TOO HARSH A PLACE FOR US DELICATE ARISTOCRATS.
SON, I...
WHAT I'M ABOUT TO TELL YOU... WELL, I SHOULDN'T. BUT...
...I JUST CAN'T LET YOU GO ON DOUBTING YOURSELF.
WHIRRRRRR
WHAT'S THAT? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

WHAT I'M ABOUT TO TELL YOU IS FOR YOUR EARS ONLY.
WHAT I'M ABOUT TO SHOW YOU IS JUST FOR YOUR EYES.
MY HIDDEN SCRAMBLER WILL GIVE US THE PRIVACY WE NEED TO TALK!--
}SKRUTCH{ !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
!!!?!!!!!!!!?
!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

PLEASE, KATAR... THINK OF ALL THE GOOD SEERS DONE! SON?
I'M NOT YOUR SON! NOT ANY-MORE!
I'LL TAKE MY CHANCES ON THE STREETS!
KATAR, PLEASE DON'T... KATAR?!
SEER... WHAT HAPPENED?
JUST... JUST LOST MY BALANCE. I'M ALL RIGHT, THANKS.
YOU MUST HAVE STRAYED FROM THE ANTIGRAV WELL, SEER. SHOULDN'T DO THAT... NOT WITH THOSE LEGS!
I'M SORRY, KATAR.
I'M SORRY.
I HAD TO TELL HIM... HOW I ONCE FOUND AN INFANT, ROCKETED HERE FROM A DOOMED WORLD...
...HOW HE AND KATAR COULD HAVE BEEN BROTHERS...
...IF I HADN'T OBTAINED SECRET FUNDING FROM CHIEF PUL TO STUDY HIM, AND TO... TO...

SEER!
I KNOW YOU CAN HEAR ME!
BUT ARE YOU LISTENING? THEY'RE USING YOU!
THAT POOR YOUNG MAN.
THAT'S KATAKHOL... HE USED TO BE AN ARISTOCRAT!
OH, GODS... THAT LUNATIC'S TALKING TO HIS IMAGINARY FRIEND SEER AGAIN.
SORRY. I'LL FIRE HIM TONIGHT.
USING YOU TO RUIN THE WORLD--AND YOU'RE LETTING THEM! AND YOU DON'T HAVE TO! I CRAZY FOOL! I'VE BEEN TELLING YOU FOR MONTHS!
THEY PUT THE CRAB IN YOU! IT'S DEVOURING YOU FROM THE INSIDE, YOU IDIOT!
FEAR THE CRAB, SEER! FEAR THE CRAB!
STOP LOOKING FOR CRIMINALS, YOU DUPE!
LOOK INSIDE YOU!
LOOK AT ME!
LOOK AT ME!

SEER, CHIEF PUL THINKS YOU'RE GETTING LAZY... THAT YOU'VE FAILED TO REPORT TOO MANY CRIMES.
HE ORDERED US TO WATCH YOU... KEEP YOU FOCUSED ON THE JOB.
WATCH... ME?
THAT'S ABSURD! TELL HIM FOR ME...
SEER! LISTEN TO ME!
SEER, PLEASE! SAVE KATAR! DON'T LET THEM KILL MY SON!
SHUT UP, PARAN! YOU ENDANGERED KATAR WITH YOUR BIG MOUTH! THIS IS YOUR FAULT!
POOR KATAR... I RUINED HIS LIFE, SEER! JUST AS I RUINED YOUR--
ENOUGH! SILENCE HIM--NOW!
YESSIR, CHIEF PUL.
GHUH
H--
FIND THE SON! I WANT HIM IN CUSTODY IMMEDIATELY!
THE SECRET DIES WITH HIM!

PAY ATTENTION, SEER! LOOK AT THIS!
IT'S INSIDE YOU... INVERTING YOUR POWER TO SERVE THEIR ENDS! CAN'T YOU FEEL IT?
CAN'T YOU FEEL--
FEEL THIS, YOU LUNATIC!
AWHH--! GO AHEAD! KILL ME! I'VE BEEN WAITING!
BUT YOU CAN'T KILL TRUTH! YOU CAN'T KILL JUSTICE!
YOU! GIVE ME YOUR WINGS!
WHAT?
YOU'RE GONNA FLY? YOU CAN BARELY WALK!
AHHH!
HSSSS!
GIVE ME YOUR WINGS!
I KNOW YOU CAN'T HEAR ME, KATAR... BUT THE WISDOM HIDDEN IN YOUR CRAZED RANT HAS FINALLY REACHED ME!
I'VE WORKED TOO LONG FOR LAW AND ORDER WHEN I SHOULD HAVE BEEN SEEKING--
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--TRUTH AND JUSTICE!
STAY BACK... I'M WARNING YOU!
HAWW! THINK YOU CAN SCARE ME WITH THAT VEGETABLE PEELER?

AHHHAR! MY HAND---!
HHSSSS
LEAVE THAT MAN ALONE!
I GOT HIM! I GOT HIM!
DON'T LET GO! PULL HIS WINGS!
SEER! YOU FINALLY HEARD ME! YOU SAVED ME--
SURE HE DID, PSYCHO! LOOK AT HIM NOW!
HE CAN'T EVEN STAND!
---NOW SAVE YOUR-SELF.
HEY!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING---?

THE QUESTION IS, WHAT AM I UNDOING?
THIS WON'T HURT FOR LONG, SEER--
SHLUUK!
--SEE? GOOD AS NEW!
STOP GAWKING AND GET THEM!
KATAR--WHAT'D YOU DO TO ME?
I KILLED THE CRAB! POWER'S YOURS AGAIN!
FLY US AWAY! YOU DON'T NEED WINGS!
EVERYTHING!
AND I'LL TELL YOU ALL OF--
AMAZING, KATAR! WHAT ELSE DO YOU KNOW ABOUT ME THAT I DON'T?
HALT--
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THIS IS THE POLICE! YOU'RE BOTH UNDER ARREST!
KATAR--
--HOLD THAT THOUGHT--
AHHH!
--I NEED A MOMENT WITH MY COLLEAGUES!
THERE. YOU WERE SAYING?
AHHH!
SPLIT SPLIT SPLIT

...SO YOU'RE SAYING THIS THING YOU CALLED "THE CRAB" WAS ACTUALLY SOME SORT OF SUN-ENERGY TRANSFORMER?
THAT SOUNDS RIGHT.
SEE, I DON'T UNDERSTAND THINGS LIKE I USED TO! LIVING ON THE STREETS CAN REALLY MESS YOU UP! BUT THE WAY I REMEMBER IT...
...WHEN YOUR SHIP LANDED, MY FATHER EXAMINED YOU. HE FIGURED OUT THE SUN WOULD EVENTUALLY GIVE YOU SUPER-POWERS.
ANDAR PUL SOLD HIM THE IDEA TO DIVERT ALL THE SUN-ENERGY TO YOUR EYES AND EARS. NO FLIGHT, NO SPEED, NO STRENGTH AT ALL...YOU COULD BARELY HOLD YOURSELF UP.
THEY REAPED A POLICE STATE. TOTAL SOCIAL CONTROL AT VIRTUALLY NO COST...
...BUT AT GREAT COST TO THE PEOPLE... AND TO ME.
I DEVOTED MY LIFE TO LAW AND ORDER. THANKS TO YOU, KATAR, I NOW HAVE A CHANCE TO REDEDICATE MYSELF...
...TO TRUTH AND JUSTICE!
"...AND ANOTHER STORY ENDS..."

...ANOTHER LIFE THAT MIGHT HAVE BEEN. DID SUPERMAN'S MIND SURVIVE THIS ONE?
I HAVE LOST HIM...
...LOST SUPERMAN! I THINK... I THINK HIS BRAIN DIED!
DON'T SAY THAT, J'ONN! WE'VE TRAVELED LIGHT-YEARS TO FIND HIM, AND YOUR TELEPATHIC BEACON IS THE ONLY LEAD WE--
WHOAAA! WHERE'D THIS COME FROM?
MASTER? I HAVE PREPARED THE OTHER SUBJECTS FOR YOUR INSPECTION...

--AND I AM PLEASED TO REPORT THEY HAVE SUCCUMBED TO TOTAL MIND-CAPTIVITY!
CONCLUDED NEXT WEEK IN MAN of STEEL #92!

SOOPAH-BEAST, SOOPAH-BEAST!
HE'S SOOPAH-BEASTLY!